

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 16897 121538Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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S E C R E T CAIRO 16897

NODIS

FOR UNDERSEC HABIB, DEP ASSTSEC VELIOTES (NEA) AND
DEP ASSTSEC BARBOUR (EUR)

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, EG, US, UK, IT
SUBJ: MIG-21 MAINTENANCE

REF (A) CAIRO 16822, (B) CAIRO 15417,

1. AIRA, WHO PARTICIPATED IN JOINT TEAM'S TECHNICAL TALKS
WITH EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, TELLS
ME SIGNIFICANT CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH RESPECT TO SCOPE
OF PROPOSED WORK.

2. DURING TECHNICAL TALKS, AVM ARIF, DEPCHIEF ENGINEER FOR
EAF, TOLD GROUP HE BELIEVED GAMASY HAD IN HIS REMARKS
CONFUSED NEAR-TERM AND TOTAL EAF REQUIREMENTS. SPECIFICALLY,
ARIF SAID THAT TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR THREE RPT THREE-YEAR
PERIOD 1978-80 IS FOR 100 AIRFRAMES (THE MOST PRESSING NEED),
DIVIDED ROUGHLY INTO ONE-THIRD FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS.
AIRCRAFT WOULD BE OF THREE DIFFERENT MIG-21 TYPE MODELS:
60 MIG-21 (MF), 20 MIG-21 (D-1) DUAL TRAINERS, AND 20
MIG-21 (F-13). AIRCRAFT WILL BE DISASSEMBLED AND FLOWN TO
ITALY BY TRANSPORT. EGYPTIANS WISH THEM TEST-FLOWN IN ITALY
AFTER OVERHAUL. THEREAFTER, THEY WOULD AGAIN BE DIS-

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ASSEMBLED AND RETURNED TO EGYPT BY TRANSPORT.

3. REQUIREMENT FOR ENGINE OVERHAUL DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO
ARIF, APPEAR UNTIL SECOND HALF OF 1978. ARIF CALIMED SOME
CHANGES IN MIG ENGINE OVERHAULING SITUATION HAD OCCURRED
SINCE MAY OF THIS YEAR, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY. IN PERIOD
SECOND HALF 1978-80, ARIF SAID REQUIREMENT WOULD BE FOR 59

R-13 ENGINES (MIG-21 MF) AND FOR 32 R-11 ENGINES (OTHER MIG-21 TYPES). APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THIS TOTAL WOULD BE DAMAGED OR DEFECTIVE ENGINES NEEDING REPAIR. TWO-THIRDS WOULD BE ENGINES TO BE OVERHAULED DUE TO ELAPSED FLYING TIME.

4. MOST DIFFICULT CONDITION TO BE MET SEEMS BE THAT EAF WILL PROVIDE NO ASSISTANCE WITH SPARE PARTS REQUIRED AS REPLACEMENTS DURING OVERHAULING. WHEN THIS REQUIREMENT IS EXTRAPOLATED TO NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, RADIOS, WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND OTHER AUZILIARIES, AS WELL AS THE ENGINES AND AIRFRAMES, ITALIANS ARE PRESENTED WITH CHALLENGING PROBLEM. ANOTHER EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANT, AVM RAGAN, TOLD ITALIANS "WE WANT YOU TO REPLACE THE SOVIET UNION" WITH EGYPT PROVIDING MINIMAL ASSISTANCE TO THAT END.

5. DESPITE CHANGE IN SCOPE, ITALIANS SEEM TO BE RESPONDING POSITIVELY. IF THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO, AIRA BELIEVES EGYPTIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ELICIT COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITISH AND ITALIAN FIRMS AND, SHOULD THAT FAIL, THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN TO PRECLUDE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT WHEREEVER POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, GAMASY HAS FROM OUTSET DEFINED HIS REQUIREMENT AS 100 MIG-21 ENGINES AND AIRFRAMES IN 1977-78 TIME FRAMEWORK. WHEN HE INITIALLY GAVE ME THIS ESTIMATE (REF B), HE CLAIMED TO HAVE GOTTEN IT FROM EAF
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"TECHNICAL" PEOPLE. AS INDICATED REF A, HE REPEATED THIS TO THE GROUP IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS YESTERDAY. YET SCOPE, AS SUBSEQUENTLY PROPOSED BY ARIF, IS LESS AND STRETCHED OVER LONGER PERIOD. ALL OF THIS WOULD SUGGEST THAT MIG-21 ENGINE OVERHAUL PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE LESS ACUTE THAN INITIALLY PRESENTED TO US. WHETHER THIS IS DUE TO EFFECTIVENESS ROLLS ROYCE OPERATION OR TO SOMETHING ELSE (I.E., WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD UNCONFIRMED REPORT EAST GERMANS MAY BE OVERHAULING SOME MIG ENGINES), WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME KNOW. AIRFRAME PROBLEM, PERHAPS BECAUSE HAWKER-SIDLEY HAS ONLY RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONTRACT, SEEMS TO BE THE MORE ACUTE ELEMENT IN MIG-21 MAINTENANCE SITUATION. WE UNDERSTAND EAF HAS ABOUT 40 MIG-21 ENGINES WHICH IT IS ALLOWING ROLLS ROYCE TO CANNIBALIZE FOR PARTS. IF ITALIAN FIRMS ARE TO MOVE QUICKLEY, THEY WILL NEED ACCESS TO SOME OF THESE CANNIBALIZED PARTS. THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE EGYPTIANS WILL BE WILLING TO WORK OUT WITH ROLLS ROYCE IF CONTRACT SIGNED WITH ITALIAN FIRMS.

7. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO ROME.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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